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the form and the manner of its presentation before an English-reading public.

R. J. KERNER.

A Calendar of the Court Minutes, etc. of the East India Company, 1650-1654. By ETHEL BRUCE SAINSBURY, with an Introduction and Notes by WILLIAM FOSTER, C.I.E. (Oxford: Clarendon Press. 1913. Pp. xxxii, 404.)

THE numerous documents in this fourth volume are chiefly from the *Court Book* of the company, though many short entries are drawn from state papers of various sorts at the Public Record Office. The usual high standard of production and apparatus is maintained. American interests are occasionally noted, as, for example, the successful colonization of Barbadoes. There is also frequent mention of the need of naval convoy in view of the danger from Channel pirates who were attacking the East India and Barbadoes fleets. The reason for this pooling of interests lies probably in the financial investments of members of the company in such American adventures. This matter of piracy, however, is of larger importance and we could well draw a picture of the dangerous conditions existing even in home waters. But greater matters are also treated.

First is the relation of the affairs of the company to English foreign policy. These affairs are at first affected by the royalist sympathies of the Continental maritime nations. The success of the Commonwealth navy and the use of privateers offered some protection to the company's shipping. But the Dutch War was a more complicated undertaking. The body of documents exposing the interests of the company in this matter is far too large to permit any detailed references, but they form a most valuable addition to the sources for this subject. Merely as an illustration is the petition of November 14, 1650, by the company for redress from the Dutch (p. 73). The course of the war and the settlement of outstanding questions in connection with peace add another series of frequent papers. In less important fashion is the final recognition by Portugal of English trading claims in the East. And in other, if often contradictory, ways the fuller entry of the company into a national policy is of importance. These and various affairs suggest the greater influence of "the City" on Westminster.

Secondly, comes the tangled matter of financial policy. It is impossible even to trace here the complicated questions connected with the raising of subscriptions. But the principles of the struggle regarding joint-stock companies, which played such an important part in the economic history of the seventeenth century, appear here in considerable detail. Petition and counter-petition, document after document, supply in concrete fashion the very stuff of business policy. In like if less frequent ways the problem of "private trade by the servants of the company" receives special treatment. As a matter of economic prin-

ciple the questions are similar; but administrative expediency had influenced the company. And in this period a marked relaxation of stringent prohibition of private trade may have had some relation to the problems of the company. In general the concluding documents of this volume point directly to the coming struggle over the granting of the new charter to the company by Cromwell.

ALFRED L. P. DENNIS.

Henry Bennet, Earl of Arlington, Secretary of State to Charles II.

By VIOLET BARBOUR, Instructor in History, Vassar College.

[Prize Essays of the American Historical Association, 1913.]

(Washington: American Historical Association; London: Humphrey Milford, Oxford University Press. 1914. Pp. xii, 303.)

WITH the appearance of Miss Barbour's life of Arlington another link is added to the rapidly lengthening chain of Restoration biography which began so many years ago with Lister's classic *Life of Clarendon*, and has recently been so remarkably increased. There are, indeed, not many principal personages of that extraordinary period now without some sort of modern biography. Charles II., his wife, most of his mistresses, all of his chief ministers save two, Temple, L'Estrange, Ormonde, Argyll, Pepys, Mackenzie—the list is as long as it is miscellaneous. And if, in these contributions to Restoration history, two characteristics are noticeable above all others they are, first, that scarcely any other period in English affairs has proved such an attractive and fertile field for the production of biographical monographs; and, second, that it seems to have a peculiar fascination for that sex which played so great a part in its development.

To this collection Miss Barbour's volume is a welcome and valuable addition. If it cannot pretend to the bulk and exhaustiveness of Lady Burghclere's *Ormonde* it certainly surpasses that author's *Buckingham* both in method and content; and though it lacks the scope and interest of Mr. Christie's *Shaftesbury* in revolutionizing our ideas of its subject and period, it unquestionably adds much to our knowledge and something to our conception of one of the most elusive figures in Restoration politics.

That it does not add more is less the fault of the author than of her subject. Of all the leading personages in the reign of Charles II., it seems to be evident from these pages that Arlington will remain in history, as he was in life, one of the most difficult to evaluate properly in his relation to affairs and his permanent influence upon them. This is, no doubt, largely true because he was first of all a diplomat rather than a statesman, and it is never easy to adjudge the proper proportion of personal influence wielded by an intermediary. But, growing out of his profession, perhaps, there were certain qualities emphasized in Arlington's nature which make Miss Barbour's task doubly difficult. Despite her long and patient investigation, despite the many facts, both new and old, here brought together by her industry, despite her clear and syste-